

## "Proof" of Atrocities Called German Plot

Rumor Mutilated Belgian  
Children Are in U. S. Started  
That It May Be Refuted

"I believe that the rumors as to mutilated Belgian children being in this country are started and circulated by the Germans themselves," said the

Rev. J. J. Stilleman, director of the Belgian Relief Bureau, yesterday, "for the sake of being able to declare them erroneous and to claim victory, though logically, that all other accusations are to be judged untrue since, in this particular case, no proof is forthcoming."

Professors of Louvain University and other witnesses to atrocities have been and are in the United States, Mr. Stilleman said, but were afraid to tell what they had seen lest the Germans make reprisals upon friends and relatives who were still in Belgium.

# TODAY

## at Wanamaker's

### the Christmas Store

#### Six Wonderful Christmas Offers of Household Linens

Linens just out of bonded warehouse. Linens in some cases less than today's wholesale prices. Linens of fresh, fine, beautiful quality. Every thread linen.

2,000 yards fine damask, \$1.50 yard

The manufacturer's wholesale price—if he had any of this damask, and he hasn't—would be \$2 yard. 70 inches wide, heavy, smooth satin-like finish.

500 dozen matching Napkins

22 inches square, \$4 dozen. Two yards of the damask will make a tablecloth for \$3. The napkins added at \$4 will make a complete set at \$7. Packed in a Christmas box.

400 Tablecloths, \$4.25 and \$5.50

The wholesale price today is \$5.75. Irish double damask cloths with circular patterns, some arranged for round or square tables. Matching napkins, 22 inches square, \$4.75; the maker's wholesale price is \$6.

400 Odd Tablecloths, \$3.75 to \$30

The old low prices were \$5 to \$30

1,000 dozen Madeira Doilies, 12½c each

Standard 20c grade, 6 inch doilies hand scalloped and with hand eyelet work.

Madeira Luncheon Sets, \$3.25, were \$5

Fine linen 13 piece sets with embroidery and scallop.

150 Luncheon Sets, \$2.75, were \$4.50

Fine linen sets of 13 pieces with the difficult rose scallop, beautifully done by hand.

Third Gallery, New Building.

## And—\$5,000 of Decorated China Plates for \$2,900

ROYAL DOUTLON, CHAS. FIELD HAVILAND, AHNRENFELDT, REDON.

English Service Plates French Service Plates

\$90 dozen, (were \$150)	\$65 dozen, (were \$100)
\$75 dozen, (were \$125)	\$55 dozen, (were \$90)
\$60 dozen, (were \$100)	\$50 dozen, (were \$85)
\$40 dozen, (were \$75)	\$40 dozen, (were \$70)
\$22.50 dozen, (were \$45)	\$27.50 dozen, (were \$42.50)
\$15 dozen, (were \$30)	\$12 dozen, (were \$22)
	\$10 dozen, (were \$18)

Also salad, fruit and bread and butter plates at similar reductions—all from our regular stocks.

Second Gallery, New Building.

## Books at Half and Less

THE GOSPEL STORY IN ART by John La Farge—80 full page plates, published at \$5—our special price \$1.75.

KIM by Rudyard Kipling. Beautifully illustrated by full page plates. Published at \$3.50—our special price \$1.50.

JULES VERNE'S COMPLETE WORKS 15 volumes, cloth binding. This is the only complete edition. Published to sell at \$24—our special price \$12.

KIPPLING'S SELECTED WORKS 9 volumes, bound in a new imitation, flexible leather binding, boxed, \$4.50.

First Gallery, New Building.

## 123 Boys' Mackinaws at \$6.75

\$8.75 would be the price of these, bought in the regular course of business, with usual profit added. Sizes 7 to 18 years.

Burlington Arcade floor, New Building.

## Extra Special Values in Umbrellas

### —Not to be duplicated, we hear

At \$3. Fine silk and hse umbrellas for women, charming assortment of loop and fancy handles. Men's at \$3 have natural wood handles.

At \$4 and \$5. Women's umbrellas of all silk with bakelite sterling silver, sterling silver tipped, leather loop and other smart handles.

Main floor, Old Building.

## Real Filet Collars, \$2.50

\$3.75 grades—real filet—real hand made lace, and about the cost of an imitation file collar.

\$1.50 Satin Gypsy Collars—\$1

Dainty satin collars that are equally pretty on blouses or on serge or silk frocks.

Satin sets, \$1, for \$1.50 grades. Collar and Cuff sets of lustrous washable satin, white or flesh pink.

Neckwear Store, Main floor, Old Bldg.

## Old-fashioned Gift of Slippers!

Is there any one so rich or so poor, or so hard to please, or so surfeited with gifts who wouldn't breathe a little sigh of gratification if Santa Claus' gift were a pair of slippers?

Padded sole felt comfys, leather slippers, Indian moccasins, ribbon slippers, mules, slippers of every kind known to slipper makers, and some kind known only to the exclusive Wanamaker slipper makers. Thousands and thousands and thousands—for men, women and children. Priced \$1 to \$15, according to size and kind.

Main floor, Old Building.

The John Wanamaker Store

# The Great War—1234th Day

## Teutons Renew Italian Assault Despite Losses

### Austrians Storm Several Positions South of Col Caprille

#### Alpini Bar the Way Powerful Forces of Defenders Ready to Contest Every Inch of Ground

LONDON, Dec. 16.—In spite of the crushing losses sustained by the Austro-Germans in the last four days of their offensive on the Northern Italian front, they are continuing without cessation their efforts to smash through the mountain barriers into the Venetian plains. To-day, following on the attack which broke the backbone of the Italian resistance on Col Caprille, between the Brenta and Piave rivers, the Austrians took by storm several enemy positions to the south of that height, the Perlin War Office reports to-night.

These new successes of the invaders have rendered the Italian lines east of the Brenta far less stable than their defenses on the Asiago Plateau and along the lower Piave, though there is no indication that there is immediate danger of the enemy breaking through to the plains. Caprille Hill is a dominating height at the head of the San Lorenzo Valley, which leads directly to the Venetian lowlands.

Alpini Bar the Way

By massing men in overpowering numbers, von Below has been able to extend his front in this region a considerable distance, but in the San Lorenzo Valley and along the slopes on either side of it, powerful forces of Alpini bar the way to the plains, prepared to exact a heavy toll for every inch of ground wrested from them.

Already the Austro-Germans have paid for their proportionately slender gains have been terrific, and of continued and mounting losses must begin to get into the rear divisions of reserves behind the fighting line. While Germany has been able to release thousands of fresh troops from the Russian front recently, she can ill afford to suffer heavy casualties on the Italian front at a time when Hindenburg is preparing to throw all his strength into a crushing blow against France.

Austrians Need Men, Too

The Austrians still less can stand such big losses as they have sustained in the last week of their offensive. An Austrian man power now is down to a little over 1,200,000 men, a few hundred thousand of whom will be needed by Hindenburg if he hopes to carry out his expected winter offensive against the West before America's weight is thrown into the balance.

There are strong indications that from now on the Italians and their allies will be exposed to the most deadly artillery fire of the whole offensive, as the Teutons have finally got into line their heaviest guns. Parts of the French section of the line were exposed Friday to the most active bombardment they had experienced since they took their place behind the Italians. The mammoth German cannon and trench mortars threw shells over the plains miles beyond the Piave, bombarding one town, Crocetta, with 400 shells of large caliber.

Teutons Take Mt. Caprille, Dominating Head of Pass; Italians Inflict Big Losses

(By The Associated Press)

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ITALIAN ARMY IN NORTHERN ITALY, Saturday, Dec. 16.—After five days of continuous fighting, the enemy has succeeded in making another slight advance, bringing his position up to Caprille Hill, just east of the Brenta River. This is a strategic advance of about three-quarters of a mile, its chief importance being that Caprille is one of the dominating heights at the head of the San Lorenzo Valley, leading directly to the Venetian plains, where the enemy is persistently exerting all his pressure.

As his chief effort the previous week was to gain command of the passes of the Brenta River, his attention in the past week has been given to the passes on the east bank. The fighting during the past five days has been heavy and at times desperate for control of strategic positions.

The struggle yesterday and to-day took on a double aspect, with the Italians attacking on the right of Mount Perla, occupied by the enemy, while the Austrians concentrated their attacks on the left, around Mount Beretta and its neighboring hills. Caprille, the Alpini again distinguished themselves in an effort to redeem the hill, but while all reports agree that heaps of enemy dead marked the course of the Italian attack, they were unable to maintain their position at the summit, exposed to the sweep of enemy batteries.

Austrian attacks on the left were twice repulsed by late evening. During a large addition of fresh troops, the Austrians got to the summit of Caprille, while the Italian lines were correspondingly drawn back. Although Caprille is at the head of San Lorenzo Valley, the passage along this valley is controlled by the heights on both sides held by the Italians.

First High French Officer Killed in Italy

(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN NORTHERN ITALY, Saturday, Dec. 16.—Colonel Ferret Francois Bell was the first high French officer to fall in Italy. He was buried this morning in a tiny village, close behind the front, where he was killed by a shell while inspecting the line.

The funeral of Colonel Bell was attended by French, Italian, Dutch, and British and Italian officers from adjacent regiments. A German airplane that was flying over the scene at the time of the burial was put to flight. For two years prior to taking over the command of a Chasseurs regiment in Italy Colonel Bell was on the headquarters staff of Marshal Joffre.

Two American Airmen Bring Down Two German 'Planes'

PARIS, Saturday, Dec. 15.—Charles J. Biddle, of Andalusia, Penn., and Philip Collins, of Detroit, both members of the Lafayette Flying Squadron, have each brought down a German machine with the last week.

Leod Benoit, an aviator, of Attleboro, Mass., fell with his machine on Thursday while making a flight over the ground at a French aviation school. Both his legs were broken. He was taken to a hospital where he is reported to be resting comfortably.

## Floating Fortresses Aid In Holding Foe From Venice

### Great Monitors, With Lines of Stationary Batteries and Muddy Trenches Filled With Men, Mark Miles of Inundated Plain—Balk Germans at the Piave

ON THE LOWER PIAVE RIVER, NORTHERN ITALY, Dec. 15.—Countless square miles of desolate marshland, intercepted and cut into numberless islands by sluggish lagoons and land inundated to the depth of several feet, line after line of stationary batteries of guns of from three to fifteen inches in caliber and deep, muddy trenches filled with men determined that the enemy shall not advance any further—such are the impressive and apparently well-nigh unassailable defenses of Venice.

The character of the warfare all along the lower Piave line, and particularly the methods employed to defend the "Queen of the Seas" from the Austro-German invasion, undoubtedly are unique even in this war of coevalties. Nature has placed a barrier in the path of the invader apparently more insurmountable even than the mountains which the enemy has fought his way across, and these natural obstacles have been fortified as probably has no other place in Europe.

Floating Fortresses

Human ingenuity has outdone itself to provide floating fortresses armed with huge guns which, camouflaged and concealed cunningly from spying airplanes, can slip from point to point, never offering a mark for the invaders and yet always able to bombard the enemy as he attempts nightly to build pontoon bridges across the River Piave.

Skilled engineers have ferreted out every bit of solid mainland in the vast swampy area north of Venice, where the Austro-Germans, according to the distance from the Austrian lines, have been established. They never relax their vigilance in watching for the enemy.

The main body of the troops, however, has been unable to cross the river because of the activity of the monitors and stationary batteries, and they are unable to inflict any serious damage because they are too far away from the Venetian front to be effective.

The Teutons have occupied the entire northern bank of the new Piave, and here and there have been able to put little detachments across, which have struggled through the inundated territory and occupied isolated farmhouses.

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behind as the boat worked its way into the narrow channels running between the marshes and through which a human being could hardly force his way. Even the customary animal life of any wilderness seemed to be lacking, except for a few ducks seen flying occasionally around some corner.

Suddenly the press boat almost collided with a grayish steel hulk secured by chains and ropes to the shore. The gun, had taken up its position on this spot the night before.

Defeated Attempt to Bridge River

It had successfully thrown shells to the Piave River, and many times had defeated the efforts of the Austrians to complete a pontoon bridge to the southern shore. In the case enemy airplanes were seen during the day the monitor was prepared to slip its cables at night, fall and steam away to some other spot where the Austrian shells would be unable to reach it from the front. It could continue its work of destruction.

The monitor was but the first of a series. Others with lighter guns and lighter draft were lying in reserve, ready at a moment's notice to slip through the winding channels to some point nearer to the enemy and from there direct an unexpected fire on his positions.

The movement of the monitors generally decreased in size as the press boat approached more closely to